



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/752,297	12/29/2000	Scott R. Nelson	5181-30701/P4114	6652

7590

03/13/2003

Dan R. Christen  
Conley, Rose, & Tayon, P.C.  
P.O. Box 398  
Austin, TX 78767

EXAMINER

WALLACE, SCOTT A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2671

DATE MAILED: 03/13/2003

5

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

h u

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/752,297

Applicant(s)

NELSON ET AL.

Examiner

Scott Wallace

Art Unit

2671

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 11, 15-21 and 25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 8-10, 12-14, 22-24 and 26-28 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

2. Claims 1, 4, 15, 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Lee et al, U.S. Patent No. 5,903,279.

3. As per claim 1, Lee et al discloses a method for displaying lines on a display device (column 2 lines 28-32), said method comprising: generating a plurality of sample positions (column 2 lines 28-40) in a two-dimensional space (fig 5); determining a sample normal distance for each of the sample positions with respect to a line in the two-dimensional space (fig 1 and column 1 lines 65-67 and column 2 lines 1-3 and 28-40); assigning sample values to said sample positions based on the sample normal distance of each of said sample positions (column 1 lines 60-67 and column 2 lines 1-3); operating on one or more of said sample values to determine a pixel value (column 1 lines 60-67); transmitting the pixel value to a display device (column 2 lines 15-17).

4. As per claims 4 and 18, Lee et al discloses wherein said operating on said one or more sample values comprises: spatially filtering said one or more sample values (column 1 lines 29-43).

5. As per claim 15, Lee et al discloses a method for displaying lines on a display device (column 2 lines 28-32), said method comprising: a sample buffer (column 2 lines 10-20); a rendering unit configured to a) generate a plurality of sample positions (column 2 lines 28-40) in a two-dimensional space (fig 5); determining a sample normal distance for each of the sample positions with respect to a line in the two-dimensional space (fig 1 and column 1 lines 65-67 and column 2 lines 1-3 and 28-40); assigning sample values to said sample positions based on the sample normal distance of each of said sample positions

(column 1 lines 60-67 and column 2 lines 1-3); store said sample values in said sample buffer (column 2 lines 10-20); a pixel calculation unit configured to read one or more of said sample values from the sample buffer (column 2 lines 10-20), operate on one or more of said sample values to determine a pixel value (column 1 lines 60-67); transmitting the pixel value to a display device (column 2 lines 15-17).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 2-3 and 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee et al in view of Law, U.S. Patent No. 6,133,901.

8. As per claims 2 and 16, Lee et al does not specifically disclose wherein said sample values comprise color values. However, this is disclosed in Law in the abstract. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the color values of Law with the sample values in Lee et al because Lee et al discloses finding the weighted intensity value and this intensity could be done with color values or gray scale depending on the capability of the computer.

9. As per claims 3 and 17, Lee et al does not specifically disclose wherein said sample values comprise transparency values. However this is disclosed in Law in column 7 lines 6-20. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the transparency values of Law with the values of Lee et al because Lee et al discloses finding the weighted intensity value and this intensity could be done with color values or gray scale or transparency values depending on the capability of the computer.

10. Claims 5-7, 11, 19-21, 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee et al in view of Nakayama et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,487,142.

11. As per claims 5 and 19, Lee et al does not specifically disclose wherein said determining said sample normal distance for each of the sample positions with respect said line comprises: computing a vertical displacement between the sample position and the line; and multiplying the vertical displacement by a slope correction factor. However, this is disclosed in Nakayama et al in column 5 lines 40-50. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the slope correction factor of Nakayama et al with the system of Lee et al because this would have made it possible to draw a smooth straight line only having very small steps (column 6 lines 1-10).

12. As per claims 6 and 20, Lee et al does not specifically disclose wherein said determining said sample normal distance for each of the sample positions with respect said line comprises: computing a horizontal displacement between the sample position and the line; and multiplying the horizontal displacement by a slope correction factor. However, this is disclosed in Nakayama et al in column 5 lines 40-50. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the slope correction factor of Nakayama et al with the system of Lee et al because this would have made it possible to draw a smooth straight line only having very small steps (column 6 lines 1-10).

13. As per claims 7 and 21, Lee et al discloses wherein said assigning sample values to said sample positions based on the sample normal distance of each sample positions (column 1 lines 60-67 and column 2 lines 1-3). However, Lee et al does not specifically disclose determining a window value

according to a window function for each of said sample positions based on the corresponding sample normal distance; computing said sample value for each of said sample positions based on the corresponding window value. This disclosed in Nakayama et al in column 4 lines 20-67. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the window function (occupying ratio calculating means) of Nakayama et al with the system of Lee et al because this would have made it possible to draw a smooth straight line having a high quality (column 4 lines 25-30).

14. As per claims 11 and 25, Nakayama discloses further comprising receiving user input determining said ACF (column 5 lines 10-25).

***Allowable Subject Matter***

15. Claims 8-10, 12-14, 22-24, 26-28 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Scott Wallace** whose telephone number is **703-605-5163**.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Mark Zimmerman**, can be reached at 703-305-9798.

**Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**or faxed to:**

**(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only)**

**Application/Control Number: 09/752,297**  
**Art Unit: 2671**

**Page 6**

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA,  
Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be  
directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is  
(703) 306-0377.



MARK ZIMMERMAN  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600